AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15.   (Canceled).

16.   (Previously Presented) A control device for establishing an information-output ranking of a plurality of information sources including audio sources, comprising:

an arrangement for establishing the information-output ranking in pairs for the audio sources in an information-output matrix set-up having a nonlinear order with respect to matrix elements; and

an arrangement for outputting information from the information sources to a common information-output device.

17.   (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 16, further comprising a selection device for selecting different attributes which are assigned to the matrix elements of an information-source pair.

18.   (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 17, further comprising an input device for inputting the matrix elements together with the selected attributes.

19.   (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 16, further comprising a video screen.

20.   (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 18, further comprising a storage device for storing the inputted matrix elements.

21.   (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 16, further comprising a management device for managing a series of information sources in a waiting list.

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22.   (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 16, wherein the information-output device is at least one of a loudspeaker and a headphone.

23.   (Previously Presented) A control method for establishing an information-output ranking of a plurality of information sources including audio sources, comprising:

establishing the information-output ranking in the form of an information-output matrix for pairs of audio sources, wherein the information-output matrix has a nonlinear order with respect to matrix elements;

determining priority of a corresponding information source with respect to another information source using matrix elements from the information-output matrix; and

outputting information from the information sources to a common information-output device.

24.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 23, wherein different attributes of the matrix elements which are each assigned to an information-source pair are selected.

25.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 23, wherein the matrix elements of the information-output matrix are individually entered into an input device.

26.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising storing in a storage device the matrix elements of the information-output matrix.

27.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 26, further comprising the step of selecting, based on an attribute of a matrix element assigned to an information-source pair, between relieving and interrupting the corresponding information source that is active longer.

28.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 26, further comprising selecting between an abrupt transition and a smooth cross-fading between two information sources.

29.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 26, further comprising selecting between separating and superposing two corresponding information sources.

30.   (Previously Presented) The control method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising forming a waiting list having an order of the information sources, using attributes of the respective matrix elements.

31.   (New) The control device of claim 16, wherein each matrix element determines the priority of a first audio source with respect to second audio source.

32.   (New) The control device of claim 16, wherein the arrangement for establishing the information-output ranking establishes a nonlinear priority ordering of the audio sources.

33.   (New) The control device of claim 16, wherein each matrix element has a first and second attribute, wherein the first attribute determines the priority of a first audio source with respect to a second audio source, and the second attribute determines a manner of interruption of a higher priority one of the first and second audio sources with respect to a lower priority one of the first and second audio sources.

34.   (New) The control device of claim 16, further comprising an input device for inputting first and second attributes for each matrix element.